



FACT SHEET

2015 AMERICAN HOUSING SURVEY

The 2015 American Housing Survey

What is the American Housing Survey? The American Housing Survey (AHS) is the nation's most comprehensive housing survey. It provides basic housing information on housing quality, housing costs, and neighborhood assets, as well as a topical information on unique housing concerns. The first AHS survey was conducted in 1973.

Who conducts the American Housing Survey? The AHS is funded and overseen by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the U.S. Census Bureau (Census).

How often does the American Housing Survey take place? The AHS is conducted biennially between May and September in odd-numbered years. The most recent AHS was conducted in 2015 with data released in 2016 and 2017.

Who can use the American Housing Survey? The American Housing Survey contains public information available to anyone. Professionals and industries most likely to find the AHS useful are housing and urban planning professionals, academics, housing trade associations, private corporations, the media, federal, state, and municipal governments, and mortgage professionals.

What U.S. regions are covered by the American Housing Survey? The 2015 American Housing Survey is comprised of the integrated National sample and 10 independent Metropolitan Area samples. The integrated National sample includes statistical data for the entire nation, as well as representative oversamples of each of the 15 largest metropolitan areas and a representative sample of housing units receiving HUD rental assistance. The 10 independent Metropolitan Area samples are from among America's top 51 largest cities.

What data is found in the American Housing Survey? Data for the 2015 American Housing Survey includes housing costs and value, mortgage characteristics, household income and demographics, disabilities, housing size and amenities, quality, migration, and plumbing, water, and sewage. Information unique to the 2015 AHS includes health and safety characteristics, arts and culture, housing counseling, and food security.

Who responds to the American Housing Survey? For occupied housing units, a household respondent, who must be a knowledgeable household member age 16 or over, provides information on the unit, the household composition, and income. For vacant housing units, a landlord, owner, real estate agent, or knowledgeable neighbor can provide data on the unit.

How do I access the data? Aggregate national and metropolitan summary data can be found online at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) using the [Table Creator](#) tool. Individual-level national and metropolitan data can be downloaded through the [Public Use File \(PUF\) microdata](#) and examined using statistical software, such as SAS/STAT software, STATA Data Analysis and Statistical software, or one of several free software programs for computing, data analysis, and graphics, such as R or Python Data Analysis Library (pandas).

Where can I learn more about the American Housing Survey? To learn more, visit the [American Housing Survey](#) webpage.

